

POLICY AND COMMUNICATIONS BULLETIN

THE CLINICAL CENTER

Medical Administrative Series

M83-2 (rev.)

9 September 1997

MANUAL TRANSMITTAL SHEET

SUBJECT: Preparation of Cadavers for Postmortem Examinations

1. Explanation of Material Transmitted: This issuance sets forth the procedures to be followed when a cadaver is being prepared for autopsy examination by the Postmortem Section, Laboratory of Pathology, National Cancer Institute, or the Maryland State Medical Examiner's Office. These procedures are consistent with those established by the State for the postmortem examination of Medical Examiner's cases. The following of these procedures will enable the pathologist to verify the appropriate placement of all tubes, central lines, wires, catheters, medical devices, etc., that were in situ at the time of the patient's death. The policy was reviewed by the Medical Executive Committee on 9 September 1997 and approved with changes.
2. Material Superseded: MAS No. 83-2, dated 11 October 1983
3. Filing Instructions: Pathologic Anatomy Section

Remove: No. 83-2, dated 11 October 1983

Insert: No. M83-2 (rev.), dated 9 September 1997

DISTRIBUTION

Physicians, Dentists and Other Practitioners Participating in
Patient Care

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PURPOSE

This issuance sets forth the procedures to be followed when a cadaver is being prepared for autopsy examination by the Postmortem Section, Laboratory of Pathology, National Cancer Institute, or the Maryland State Medical Examiner's Office. The following of these procedures will enable the pathologist to verify the appropriate placement of all tubes, central lines, wires, catheters, medical devices, etc., that were in situ at the time of the patient's death.

POLICY/PROCEDURES

1. Whenever an autopsy is to be done, all tubes, central lines, wires, catheters, airways, medical devices, and other such appliances shall be disconnected from hospital equipment but left undisturbed within the cadaver.
2. Needles shall be taped down in order to minimize the risk of injury to the pathology staff.
3. Reusable pieces of equipment will be returned to the nursing unit by the pathologist.